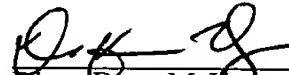




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1623  
#7  
10-24-02  
Diane Dunn McKay

The undersigned certifies that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as prepaid first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on October 7, 2002.

  
Diane Dunn McKay

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**RECEIVED**

In re Application of  
Okazaki, K. et al.  
Serial No. 09/705,661  
Filed: November 3, 2000  
For: METHOD FOR PRODUCTION  
OF ACRYLIC ACID AND  
APPARATUS FOR PRODUCTION  
OF ACRYLIC ACID

OCT 18 2002  
Group Art Unit: 1623  
TECH CENTER 1600/2900  
Examiner: Fisher, Latonia M.

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

***RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT***

In a September 27, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

I. Claims 1-7 are drawn to methods for producing acrylic acid and acrolein, classified in class 562, subclass 532.

II. Claims 8-10 are drawn to apparatus for producing acrylic acid or acrolein, classified in class 422, subclass 129.

Applicants hereby elect with traverse Group II, claims 8-10 for prosecution in this application. Applicants submit that a search of the apparatus for producing acrylic acid would uncover the methods for producing acrylic acid of Group I. Applicants

respectfully request the right to file a divisional application directed to the unelected claims.

A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should she believe this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Dunn McKay  
Reg. No. 34,586  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

DATE: October 7, 2002

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